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NSC BRIEFING

31 March 1960

BACKGROUND

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

- I. Racial situation (total population: 14.6 million).
 - A. White population (3 million).
 1. 60% Afrikaner
 - a. Descended from Dutch and Huguenots who arrived from 1652 to 1720; largely farmers.
 2. 35% English-speaking descendants of 19th-century settlers.
 - a. Control the economy.
 3. 5% Jewish.
 - B. African ("Bantu") population (9.7 million).
 1. Split into various tribal groupings with diverse cultures (e.g., Zulu, Basuto, Xhosa, etc.).
 2. More than 6 million live in native "reserves" or on European farms.
 - a. Reserves governed by "native authorities" controlled by whites.
 - b. Rural Africans are generally passive.
 - c. Furnish labor reserve for cities.
 3. 3.5 million live in and near urban areas.
 - a. Dependent on money economy.
 - b. Furnish bulk of labor force.
 - c. Dissatisfied because of social instability, low wages, government repression.
 - C. "Colored" population (1.5 million)
 1. Mixture of white, African, Malay, and Hottentot blood (but no recent white-African miscegenation).

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2. Most coloreds have traditionally felt closer to whites

than to Africans, but government programs are alienating them.

D. Indians and other Asians (450,000).

1. Centered at Durban; have taken no part in recent disturbances elsewhere.

II. Security situation.

A. Police.

1. 12,000 Africans, usually unarmed except with clubs.

a. Their loyalty has not been questioned heretofore, but intimidation by African nationalists has increased recently.

2. 10,000 whites.

a. Largely Afrikaners of low economic standing.

b. An estimated third of them under 21.

3. Police are well-trained and well-equipped.

4. Riot control techniques emphasize baton charges and firearms.

B. Army.

1. 2,500-man permanent force, dominated by Afrikaners.

a. Well-equipped and trained to act as a mobile security reserve.

2. Active Citizen Force of about 20,000.

a. Poorly equipped, but could assist in maintenance of internal security.

C. Air Force.

1. 3,000-man permanent force.

2. 400 aircraft, including 100 jets.

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D. Weapons among Africans.

1. There is no reliable indication that Africans have appreciable quantities of arms.

a. Reports that Africans fired on police at Vereeniging are unsubstantiated.

b. There has been no indication of large-scale arms smuggling operations.

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